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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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51
ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 AID-10 H-01 PM-03

DODE-00 PRS-01 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DPW-01 IO-03 RSR-01 /071 W
---------- 042479
R 251145 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3680
INFO USDEL JEC PARIS
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11379

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PFOR VS
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISER LAM' S SENATE CANDIDACY

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. IN A TALK WITH VICE MINISTER LUONG NHI KY OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY LAST NIGHT, HE CONFIRMED THAT FONMIN TRAN VAN LAM' S CANDIDACY FOR THE SENATE IS INTENDED TO RESULT IN HIS BECOMING CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE. LAM WOULD REPLACE NGUYEN VAN HUYEN, WHOSE LONG - STANDING OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT THIEU HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF VERY CONSIDERABLE FRSUTRATION TO THE PRESIDENT.

2. I ASKED KY WHO THE NEXT FOREIGN MINISTER MIGHT BE AND HE MENTIONED DR. TRAN VAN DO, BUI DIEM AND NGUYEN PHU DUC. HE DISCOUNTED HOANG DUC NHA AS A CANDIDATE ON THE GROUNDS HE IS TOO YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED AND ALREADY HAS THREE HATS BUT ONLY ONE HEAD.

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COMMENTS:

3. MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE TWO MAJOR PRO- ADMINISTRATIVE SLATES, THE " DEMOCRACY" SLATE AND LAM' S " WHITE ELEPHANT" SLATE, ARE VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO WIN IN THE SENATE ELECTION NEXT AUGUST. THIS WILL EASILY GIVE THIEU ENOUGH VOTES TO OUST HUYEN AND INSTALL THE CHAIRMAN OF HIS CHOICE. IT SEEMS LOGICAL THAT HE WOULD PICK LAM FOR THIS POST.

4. LAM WILL BE SORELY MISSED IN THE FOREIGN MINISTER' S JOB, BUT EITHER DO OR DIEM, BOTH OF WHOM ARE EMINENTLY QUALIFIED, WOULD BE MOST WELCOME AS HIS SUCCESSOR. DUC ALSO IS VERY WELL QUALIFIED, THOUGH HE LACKS THE EXPERIENCE AND PRESITIGE OF THE OTHER TWO. SO FAR AS NHA IS CONCERNED, WE THINK KY IS RIGHT.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, VS
To: CINCPAC
EA
JEC PARIS
PHNOM PENH
SECSTATE WASHDC
VIENTIANE
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